NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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SYNOPSIS

Record breaking lows at some locations on the first of July set the stage for a cooler than normal 7th month. Although the State record low for July (16°) set in 1995 at Charleston was not broken, a 20° reading at Manhattan was close. So much for the "growing season"! Precipitation was a mixed bag as some locations were affected by thunderstorms and others were not. For example, some places had 1&1/2 - 2" of rainfall (GBNP 2.03" and Mina 1.73")), while others such as Lahontan Dam and Bunkerville had none.

TEMPERATURE

The big weather news this month was the record and near record low temperatures that were recorded on July 1st. In addition to the 20° recorded at Manhattan, Charleston and Oasis had 21°, McDermitt 22°, Reese River and Smoke Creek 23° and Wildhorse Reservoir 24°. In addition to those record July lows, records were also set at Ely with 28° (60 years of record), Minden (30°) with 90 years of record, Middlegate (32°), Lemmon Valley and Cold Springs (30°), and Glenbrook and Wellington (33). With 110 years of record Reno had 35° this July, only 2 degrees shy of the 33° record set in 1965. Just across the Nevada/California border, 8500 foot Bodie, Ca. had 12° this July 1st! Try that on the tomatoes!

There was some warmth this cool month as locations around Lake Mead and along the Colorado River reached over 110°, with Laughlin (116°) and Callville Bay and Echo Bay (115°) leading the way. Bunkerville and Overton had 113°. The July record of 124° was set at Laughlin just two years ago.

PRECIPITATION & EVAPORATION

There seemed to be no particular pattern to the precipitation, as the Arizona Monsoon drenched some areas, while others were missed. For example, at opposite ends of the State, Contact in the North had 1.44", while in the South Boulder City had 1.42", and Stateline and Echo Bay Mine in the North and Bunkerville in the South had none. The greatest 24 hour totals were at Great Basin National Park with 1.75" on the 24th and 1.28" on the same day at Mina.

Pan evaporation rates were a little above normal, with 18.32" at Overton, 8.24" at Orovada, 10.90" at the Gund Ranch, 9.35" at Rye Patch Dam, 11.90 at University of Nevada, 9.36" at Honey Lake, 9.56" at Shoshone, and 7.05" at Minden. When the pan coefficient (.80) is applied Overton had 14.65" of land evaporation. With the .03" precipitation subtracted that Moapa Valley site had a Climate Water Deficit of 14.62". This is a figure that water users seriously need to consider for planning purposes.

NOTE: The hottest days for Reno and Las Vegas?

July 20, 1931 106° - Reno

July 27, 1931 118° - Las Vegas

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State Climatologist

Dayton's official climate observer Dale Firebaugh and his wife Shirley moved to Nevada from Southern California 25 years ago.

He is a retired electrical/mechanical engineer, with four patents to his credit. Dale and Shirley have one child and three grandchildren.

His interest in the weather began as a Boy Scout when he built a weather station. Thanks Dale for doing a great job measuring the local climate.

John W. James